

Serial Number 10/673,650

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Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the last paragraph on Page 7, beginning at line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A proximal portion of the shaft 14 is constructed of a hypotube 34 component. The hypotube 34 is affixed to the hub 16, and has a proximal cylindrical tubular portion 36, an intermediate tubular portion 38 with a longitudinal indentation 40, and a distal portion 42 with an arcuate non-tubular cross-section. The proximal cylindrical tubular portion 36 may of course have a taper, as indicated in Figure 4 with outer dimensions A and B, in which dimension A may be larger than dimension B for example. This taper is also indicated in Figure 8a with angle D.

Please replace the fourth paragraph on Page 9, beginning at line 9, with the following rewritten paragraph:

An additional arrangement of the hypotube of the present invention is shown in Figures 15-20. Hypotube 50 has a proximal tubular portion 52, an intermediate tubular portion 54 with a longitudinal indentation 60 that has a compound shape with a steeper proximal indent, and a distal portion 56 with an arcuate non-tubular cross-section.